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25 February 1957

Memorandum for: General Counsel

Subject: Attached Proposal

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1. The attached paper submitted by has been reviewed with great interest. As he states, this paper is a general proposal and would require detailed study from both a legal and policy viewpoint. There can be no doubt that such an Act of Congress would greatly strengthen CIA security.

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2. I believe that a detailed study of this should consider the following:

a. Should such an act be limited to felonies and violation of Federal Statutes, the normal prosecution of which would entail disclosure of intelligence sources and methods?

Example: (1) A murder by an analyst in ORR could receive normal civil court action.

(2) A theft of \$10,000 by a covert agent of Confidential Funds would come under the Act.

b. In reference to (a) above, should such an Act be preceded by or perhaps include an "Official Secrets Act" applicable to only government employees in so called "sensitive employment"? (To include the military, of course.)

c. I believe the Act must either omit "commissions" or provide exception to present procedure that all Presidential Commissions must be ratified by the Senate. (Cover reasons)


d. Certainly, I believe it would be difficult to proceed unilaterally with such an Act, when we consider the similar needs of NSA and other sensitive agencies.

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However, it seems to me that if the Act was limited to government employees, either registered openly in our records or registered covertly in the contracts of certain principal covert agents - and again applicable to announced "sensitive positions" - we would avoid a lot of the "Civil Rights" opposition from the Congress and the public.

3. The above are general comments only, and I realize that your legal experts would first need to study carefully. If this matter is taken under serious study, this office will be more than glad to give you any detailed security staff advice you desire.


Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

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Attachment

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